



Pierce Brosnan-  
Actor, Artist & Activist

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WINTER 2020

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## WINTER 2020 Publisher Note

Dear Readers:

Each year has a few pivotal moments, but there have been so many globally changing, paradigm-shifting developments in the past year that no one could have predicted. 2020 has been a whirlwind of a year, to say the least. As the pandemic continues to alter people's lives around the world on personal, social, and economic levels, we look to the new year ahead to reinvent, recreate, and reach new heights in a more environmentally sustainable way.

Our cover story actor, artist, and activist, Pierce Brosnan, is someone who continues to grow and expand both personally and professionally. Best known for playing James Bond, Pierce's rich and extensive career in front of the camera and behind-the-scenes has been notable since 1981 when he played the suave private detective in Remington Steele, the role that jump-started his career in the US. Born in Ireland, the 67-year-old has been featured in at least 66 films, some of which he has produced himself. In addition to his stellar film career, Brosnan is a passionate artist and environmentalist who has donated profits from his artwork's sales to support environmental, children's, and women's health charities. Having no desire to retire anytime soon, Brosnan continues to grace the silver screen in three 2020-21 productions.

The reinvention continues in our editorial entitled, Made in Italy: The Art of Saper Fare Italiano. Resiliency, creativity, agility combined with expertise, an eye for design, entrepreneurship, and determinism represent the VIC MATIÉ AND RUBBER SOUL (RBRSL) Italian shoe brands. This Italian shoemaking story begins almost half a century ago when a visionary leader, Renato Curzi, asked himself the question, "What is the future of Made in Italy shoes?" Born of Italian history and culture, VIC MATIÉ and RBRSL believe in offering something new to the market—not fast fashion, not haute couture—but true well-made Italian shoes that are meant to be worn and enjoyed beyond one season.

With tourist traffic down 20-30% in 2020, many European countries are reinventing their strategies to lure travellers back to their acclaimed wine tasting tours, unique artistic masterpieces, snow-capped mountains, and incredible beaches – Italy is one of those countries. Sicily, a region in the south of Italy, has a tourism revival plan that includes offering a 50% discount on all flight costs, 25% off hotel expenses, and free tickets to many museums and archaeological sites to draw tourists back. Europe has an opportunity to reinvent the tourism sector that includes a more responsible, sustainable, digital, and resilient tourism of tomorrow.

Train travel might just be a more sustainable way to see the world. Though we can fly anywhere on the planet these days, more and more travellers are opting to take the slower, more scenic route. Discover eleven of the most opulent train journeys in the world, where you will experience all the luxuries of a five-star hotel, but on wheels.

During this holiday season, why not enjoy the limited whiskey release by Glenmorangie, Tale of Cake. This is a delicious and complex whisky described as "rich and multi-layered, with a burst of passion fruit, pear, mango. More savoury notes like baking bread... leading into a burst of sweet, cake-like-honey, white chocolate, apricot, almond, vanilla and pear." Definitely tastes and smells that will warm you and make you smile.



2020 marks the eleventh year in the publication of Preferred. This success is a testament to my team that is continuously making our publication the industry's finest in men's luxury. We have welcomed new team members this year, and their efforts will help us reach new heights. Year after year, we challenge the possibilities of who we are and who we want to become. Staying true to our purpose – to offer our readers a broad range of luxury content in the form of prolific editorials – the Preferred team aspires to continue to provide a look into the very best the world has to offer and the opportunity to envision your own endless possibilities in 2021.

Cheers to health, love, and prosperity!!  
Carlo



# 5 ESSENTIAL BOTTLES TO STOCK YOUR HOME BAR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

WRITTEN BY ALEX JACKSON

**W**inter is coming and while we're still in the midst of COVID-19, we're joining the thousands of other housebound drink lovers who are taking the time to level up their home bartending game. With all of us sheltered at home now and for the foreseeable future, creating a great at-home bar is a key way to elevate holiday entertaining...or entertaining in general.

Admittedly, choosing which bottles to buy when you first start building your at-home bar can be a little overwhelming. Here's our picks for five must-have liquors that will take your drink-making skills to the next level.



## A WHISKY

Whisky comes in many styles with its own characteristics and uses. For starters, you want to start with something that promises both versatility and mixability like the Forty Creek Barrel Select. This critically-acclaimed Ontario Made whisky offers complex aromas and flavours of apricots, spice, vanilla, and toasted oak, ending in a long smooth finish. It can be enjoyed any way, anytime.



## A RUM

Rum up your home bar with an affordable, quality and versatile rum like the Appleton Estate 8yo Reserve. It combines ripe fruit and baking spice notes in a rich rum that plays well with holiday flavours. This fruity and smooth sipper lends itself very well to quality cocktails like The Estate Daquiri or Mai Tai.

## AN APERITIF

An aperitif is a refreshing liqueur that is served before a meal to stimulate one's appetite—an easy way to up your hosting skills. Campari, one of the most popular and essential aperitifs, is the perfect base for some of the most famous cocktails around the world. There's no Negroni without Campari—the iconic mix of Campari, gin and red vermouth. It is an extremely versatile liqueur and a must-have in any home bar. For a quick drink, you can easily enjoy Campari with soda.



## A LIQUEUR

Liqueurs are an essential finishing touch for any home bar. They are often used in addition to the base spirits as flavoring agents that define a cocktail. Start with a versatile orange liqueur like Grand Marnier. This iconic French liqueur is a blend of fine aged cognac and exotic oranges which won't disappoint your senses. Used in countless cocktails, this one's invaluable. You can sip it after a meal, spike a mulled wine or use it in a classic cocktail like a Grand Margarita.





**B**eyond the Rialto Bridge in Venice, the Colosseum in Rome, and the Leaning Tower in Pisa, lie enchanted Borghi where the secrets of time have been protected, car access prohibited, and old-world ways preserved—Borgo di Celle, the 6th century A.D. monastery-turned-relais, in the green heart of Italy, is one such destination.

Imagine. It's early morning, the sun is rising, but you wouldn't know it. The traditional wooden shutters have blocked all light from entering the room. As you feel your way in the dark toward the window, the textured walls tickling your fingertips remind you that you are in Umbria, a far-off cry from where you were yesterday. You open the shutters and are greeted with an Italian morning "Buongiorno" like no other—heart-opening views of rolling hills that stretch into the distance; the sun rising above the Upper Tiber Valley bath the gold patches of land below. You smile as the butterflies playing tag in the garden below, and delight in the birds' celebration of a new horizon with their morning song, meanwhile the delicate gourmand notes of freshly baked pastries and Italian coffee invite you to the dining hall for colazione (breakfast).



The outdoor terrace features a marvelous panorama overlooking the Upper Tiber Valley.

# UMBRIA

WHY THIS MEDIEVAL VILLAGE SHOULD BE ON YOUR ITALY BUCKET LIST

WRITTEN BY GIOVANNA BONOMO-BLESCIA  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR, ITALY

**AN EXPERIENCE THAT TELEPORTS YOU TO A TIME PERIOD WHEN VEHICLES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND THE INTERNET DID NOT EXIST. A VILLAGE WHERE LOST TIME IS FOUND AND TRACES OF AUTHENTIC MEDIEVAL LIFE STILL ABOUND.**

The sweet aroma of warm cornetti — the croissant's sugarier, less buttery pastry cousin, welcome you. The gentle waiter leads you outside on the grand terrace overlooking the vast valley. "Enjoy the view," he says as he lays pastries, cakes, pies and fruit in front of you. But for you, this is much more than a view— it's a glimpse of paradise. As you savour the best coffee you've ever tasted, you notice you're breathing differently than usual, more slowly. It's been a rough year, but at this moment, the pressures of the pandemic, and the frenzy of the modern world, have escaped you.

After breakfast, you take your book to the outdoor pool overlooking Monte Santa Maria Tiberina, Perugia. As you bask in the Italian sun, and your eyes take in the hills, the mountains, the ancient stone walls, and marble statues frozen in time, for the first time in a long time, you feel safe, calm, and at total peace. These are the priceless luxuries that await you at Borgo di Celle.



Borgo di Celle is an enchanting wedding venue.

This captivating hilltop village is located just 7 km from Città di Castello, an hour from Assisi in the Province of Perugia in the Umbria region, and an hour away from Cortona, the idyllic village made famous by the film “Under the Tuscan Sun.” From the moment you walk into the cobblestoned square, you will feel like you’ve landed onto a medieval times movie set.

## A JOURNEY THROUGH PLACE AND TIME

Three regions uniquely border Umbria: Tuscany to the west and the north. Le Marche to the east and Lazio to the south. These distinct regions, paired with Celle’s own rich history, dating back 1500 years, creates a melting pot of influences that take you on a journey through flavour, time and culture.

“Celle is more than a Medieval village; Celle is the custodian of our culture, our history and our lives,” says Mirella Bianconi Ponti, owner of Borgo di Celle. “I am just as in love with this borgo today as when we acquired it in 2007. Once you experience the peace, serenity, and natural treasure of Borgo di Celle, you can’t help but fall in love.”

## ROOMS AND APARTMENTS

Borgo di Celle has 24 unique rooms and four apartments for longer, more private stays— all furnished in rustic Umbrian style with exposed wood beam ceilings reminiscent of its Umbrian and Tuscan expressiveness while providing modern-day comforts including luxurious toiletries, bar, reading room, TV room and Wi-Fi.



Chocolate Mousse & Salted Caramel



## A MICHELIN-RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT & RELAIS

Borgo di Celle promotes the best local cuisine while keeping true to Celle’s culinary traditions: mouth-watering local cheeses paired with honey and jams; freshly made pasta ranging from agnolotti, ravioli to pappardelle and top-quality steaks and sausages. Every dish, a window into the region: black truffles, Umbrian Extra Virgin Olive Oil, and a wine list featuring cellars of the Montefalco area in Umbria, famous for its Sagrantino and Montefalco Rosso wines.

## SPA, WELLNESS AND RECREATION

Borgo di Celle pampers guests with a garden outdoor pool and an intimate Spa & Wellness area complete with the tingly pleasures of an indoor pool/whirlpool, sauna, and Turkish bath.

## ACTIVITIES AT BORGO DI CELLE’S SISTER RESORT: FATTORIA CALDESE

**Horseback riding:** Guests can go horseback riding through the Upper Tiber Valley with F.I.S.E. instructors — all levels of experience are welcome to this unforgettable equestrian experience.

**Golf & Country Club:** Golf lovers enjoy the challenging nine-hole course at the Golf and Country Club Caldese, where private lessons are also available.

## CONCLUSION

If Tuscany, Umbria, Le Marche, and Lazio are part of your 2021 Italy travel itinerary, and you’re looking for a medieval oasis-inspired getaway, where you will be treated to stunning views, restful days, tantalizing local food and wines, and the elusive sensation of stepping into another era; consider turning back the hand of time and spending a few days at Borgo di Celle.



# ACTOR, ARTIST, AND ACTIVIST

Pierce Brosnan

WRITTEN BY TERESA GRECO

**A** legendary Irish-American actor, Pierce Brosnan, is best known for playing James Bond in a series of four films and the suave private detective in Remington Steele, the prime-time NBC show that imbued him into the hearts of American fans forever. Chosen twice by People Magazine (USA) as one of the “50 Most Beautiful” people in the world, the tall, blue-eyed 67-year-old is timelessly handsome and elegant. Pierce is not only a two-time Golden Globe Award nominee known for his rich and extensive career in front of the camera and behind-the-scenes, but he is also a successful film producer, environmentalist, philanthropist, and artist.

After the conclusion of Remington Steele, Brosnan appeared in films such as the Cold War spy film *The Fourth Protocol* (1987), the comedy *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993) and the remake of the heist film *The Thomas Crown Affair* (1999). After leaving the role of Bond in 2002, he starred in films such as the musical/romantic comedy *Mamma Mia!* (2008), the political thriller *The Ghost Writer* (2010), and the action spy thriller *The November Man* (2014).

Born as the only son of Thomas and May Brosnan on May 16, 1953, in Drogheda, Ireland, young Pierce faced bitter experiences in his early life that started with his father's departure shortly after his birth. Relatives raised Pierce for most of his childhood after his mother left him to work as a nurse in England. When he was ten, his mother was finally able to take him with her to London. “I arrived with an aspirin bottle filled with holy water, one suitcase with all of my possessions, and a crew-cut,” he recalls.

School was an unpleasant experience for Pierce, who often “retreated into a world of Norman Wisdom movies, Westerns and comic-book heroes.” Transitioning from Ireland to England for Pierce was a challenge, stating, “When you go to a very large city, a metropolis like London, as an Irish boy of 10, life suddenly moves pretty fast. From a little school of, say, seven classrooms in Ireland, to this very large comprehensive school, with over 2,000 children. And you're Irish. And they make you feel it; the British have a wonderful way of doing that, and I had a certain deep sense of being an outsider.” Brosnan left school at 16 to pursue an art career and began working as a commercial illustrator, stating, “I always wanted to be an artist, a painter. I started as a Trainee Artist in a small studio in South London.” He later joined a theatre group and managed to win a place at the Drama Centre of London, where he trained as an actor for three years.



Graduating in 1975, Brosnan kickstarted his acting career by performing various roles in a number of London theatre productions. Brosnan describes the impact acting had on his life as, “When I found acting, or when acting found me, it was a liberation. It was a stepping-stone into another life, away from a life that I had, and acting was something I was good at, something which was appreciated. That was a great satisfaction in my life.” Shortly after he left drama school, he met actress Cassandra Harris, who he would later marry and spend 17 years of his life with, recollecting, “I just wanted to enjoy her beauty and who she was.” It was Cassandra who persuaded Pierce he would be a hit in Hollywood, and in 1981, they bought airline tickets to L.A. Two weeks later, the dapper actor landed the role of Remington Steele.

Great heartache befell Brosnan in 1991 when he dealt with the loss of his wife, who died after a four-year battle with ovarian cancer, leaving him with their son, Sean, and two stepchildren, Charlotte and Chris. Harris had always wanted Brosnan to play the role of James Bond, and in 1995, Brosnan was given the role in GoldenEye. In 1994, Brosnan met American journalist Keely Shaye Smith in Mexico. They were married in 2001 in Mayo, Ireland, and together had two sons, Dylan and Paris.

Brosnan brought out the human side of the Bond character, making GoldenEye the Bond film that grossed more than \$350 million worldwide, the most ever at that time. The second, Tomorrow Never Dies (1997), scored record grosses for a Bond film in the United States, followed by The World Is Not Enough (1999), and in Die Another Day (2002).

**“I think that all the films I’ve ever made are personal, even James Bond, because it’s so much of myself, so much of who I am as a man and as an actor. You have to invest yourself in every character that you portray,”**

**shares Brosnan.**

In addition to his work in front of the camera, Brosnan has a passion for the art of filmmaking. Having achieved international stardom as an actor, Brosnan expanded his film work by launching his own production company, Irish DreamTime, with producing partner Beau St. Clair. To date, Irish DreamTime has produced 12 films, including the successful Evelyn, The Greatest, Laws of Attraction, The Matador, Shattered, Some Kind of Beautiful, and I.T.

In addition to his stellar film career, Brosnan along with his wife Keely Shaye have been drawn into a passionate leadership role in environmental issues and are actively involved with conservation organizations that support marine mammal protection, such as The Jane Goodall Institute, Environmental Hall of Fame, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Oceana. Most recently, the two worked together on the documentary film Poisoning Paradise, which they co-produced. The film takes audiences on a journey to the seemingly idyllic world of Native Hawaiians, whose communities are surrounded by experimental test sites for genetically engineered seed corn and pesticides. To date,

Poisoning Paradise has won more than a dozen awards and screened at over 30 prestigious film festivals across the United States and abroad.

Brosnan rekindled his interest in art, which he had abandoned to pursue a career in acting. Brosnan took up painting again in the late 1980s during his first wife’s illness, which he found therapeutic. “Sometimes dramatic moments affect the way you see yourself in the world...from a very hard time in my life, I started painting again and out came every colour I could imagine,” expresses Brosnan. Citing his influences as Picasso, Matisse, Bonnard and Kandinsky, Brosnan spends much of his spare time on set and at home in front of his easel, “I am self-taught, an enthusiastic painter as a friend of mine likes to say.” Brosnan also raises money for charitable causes through sales of his paintings. Since Harris’ death, Brosnan has been an advocate for cancer awareness and donates profits from the sales of giclée prints of his work to a trust to benefit environmental, children’s and women’s health charities.



Brosnan is currently gracing the silver screen in the Netflix comedy *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga*, starring alongside Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams. In the film, which has received widespread critical acclaim, Brosnan plays Ferrell's character's father and "possibly 'the most handsome man in Iceland,' as they say," explains Brosnan. Upcoming, he will be seen in the soon-to-be-released horror film *False Positive* (2020) alongside Ilana Glazer and Justin Theroux, and he will play the king opposite Camila Cabello in writer-director Kay Cannon's new telling of *Cinderella* (2021) for Sony Pictures.

When Pierce isn't working, you'll find him, Keely, and their sons at home on the northern shore of Kaua'i. He and Keely planted a few island roots of their own nearly 20 years ago and have been hopping back and forth from their principal residence in Malibu, California, ever since. "This is a gift. We live under the shadow of Makana, and so for Keely and I to come here and have some small dream of a getaway for our children, for ourselves and our future, this is a truly magical space," shares Brosnan. With that being said, he also admits, "I have no desire to retire. I am a man of 67 years now, and the parts that will come to me will be the parts of the elder, the parts of the comedic turn. At this point in life, I don't know what else to do but act and paint." Managing the proverbial work-life balance is key. Now older and wiser, Brosnan imparts this as the secret to his success:

“

**When I found acting, I embraced it, I welcomed it and was grateful that I had some small gift of it. And then, you look behind the curtain and [find that] it's just make-believe... stars come and stars go; you have such a small space of time in life to shine-you know it's a game. I think with some certain knowledge of that, you try to have a great time and build a great life and have fun and kick your heels up and just really celebrate family, life and the movies you make.**

”



WANT A RELIABLE, RISK-FREE TRAVEL  
EXPERIENCE THIS SEASON?

# **ON-DEMAND JET CHARTER SERVICE, VICTOR, HAS YOU COVERED**

WRITTEN BY JESSICA ASHLEY MERKLEY



It is undeniably accurate to admit that 2020 has been one of the most difficult years to navigate, across a plethora of aspects within individuals' everyday lives. Additionally, many industries have experienced hardship- one being the travel industry. Restrictions on travel and strict safety measures that are in place to avoid spikes in COVID-19 cases, have people avoiding jet-setting altogether, for the time being, and commercial airlines are certainly feeling the effects.

However, there is another option besides commercial flights, for travel enthusiasts and sunseekers during the upcoming winter months. Private jet charter services are the optimal choice for those who are eager for a change of scenery or temperature. Victor, an on-demand, global private charter service, offers comfort, exclusivity and, most important of all these days, safety during a time of uncertainty for avid vacationers and travellers.

"Victor, makes booking private air travel quick, easy and transparent, giving those that need to travel the confidence and security to do so. This winter, Victor is running a promotion on its frequent-flyer points programme - Alto - to support those who need to fly privately before the year is out," shares Hannah Sharratt, PR Manager for Victor.

This leading on-demand jet charter platform allows customers to seek out, compare and book private air travel conveniently and efficiently.

Since 2011 Victor has offered a subscription-free and fully transparent marketplace which allows members to check prices and aircraft specifics quickly and transparently.

Sharatt adds that "Victor's unique combination of smart technology and exceptional 'high touch' customer service means that customers are always connected and in control," allowing access to more than 7,000 aircraft via a global network of 200 partner operators.

Climate action is also of utmost importance to Victor. Each flight is 200% offset as a standard.

Statistics make it clear that private aviation is outperforming the commercial airlines this year, due to an increase in new customers opting to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 while travelling. Private aviation is maintaining 85% of its normal activity, while commercial flights are down 50%, when compared to activity prior to the pandemic.

According to Victor, "jet charter is becoming more accessible than ever before thanks to the wide-reaching relief package, the CARES Act (the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)."



Despite private charters typically costing \$20K per flight, Victor is now offering a savings of 7.5% on all domestic flights set for 2020 and 2021. Customers will also earn double the Alto points. That being stated, for every dollar spent, two Alto points will be credited to the customer's Victor account and redeemable on future flights, reducing the cost of the next charter.

Regardless of the reason for travel, the benefits when opting for Victor's private jet charter service are incomparable. During these unprecedented times, it is of value to learn that touchpoints are far fewer when travelling as a Victor client- 97% less in fact! The on-demand charter service also offers incredible flexibility.



Sharatt indicates "Victor clients can travel when they want, where they want and as last minute as two hours before the departure time. Through the Victor app or website, they are able to search, compare and book private air travel quickly, efficiently and transparently. Every customer has a dedicated personal account manager who is available 24/7 as their trusted advisor on travel restrictions and entry requirements for safe and secure travel."

Additionally, for those who won't go anywhere without their furry friends, Victor welcomes such companions openly and allows pets to stay safely by customers' sides while flying privately. Additionally, animals are completely exempt from all COVID-19 travel restrictions.



Comfort, safety, privacy and convenience are certainly atop each jet-setter's list of musts, especially while engrossed in the current climate. Victor seamlessly ticks all of these boxes and more, ensuring that in a time of uncertainty, flyers can at least be certain about reaching their destination with ease and efficiency.

For more information visit [www.flyvictor.com](http://www.flyvictor.com)

# LUXURIOUS TRAIN JOURNEYS

WRITTEN BY JESSICA ASHLEY MERKLEY

## THAT BELONG IN YOUR BUCKET LIST

If you're being a responsible citizen of the world, it probably also means that for the next couple weeks you'll be staying in the comfort of your home. But being inside for so long must make you crave an exciting adventure, an exclusive experience, enjoying all the corners of our wonderful and mesmerising globe. That's why we decided to bring this over the top way, for the ultimate luxury travel experience: exclusive train journeys.

Just 100 years ago, train travel was the glamorous and chic mode of transport, offering guests not only comfortable means of transportation but also a way to see the world, if only from their cabins' windows. Though we're able to fly anywhere on the planet these days, more and more travellers are opting to take the slower, more scenic route. Here, discover XX of the most opulent train journeys in the world, where you'll experience all the luxuries of a five-star hotel, but on wheels.

### BELMOND ANDEAN EXPLORER



The first luxury sleeper train in South America, the Belmond Andean Explorer made its debut in 2017, operating two- and three-day itineraries that connect Cusco, Lake Titicaca, and Arequipa in the Peruvian Andes. Beyond the cabin cars, there are two dining cars, a lounge car, a spa car, and an observation car with an outdoor viewing deck, perfect for taking in the views of the mountains.

### INCA RAIL'S PRIVATE CAR



In order to get to Machu Picchu, you first must take a train journey from the town of Ollantaytambo in Peru's Sacred Valley up to Aguas Calientes, the town just beneath the ancient citadel. While there are multiple companies running trains on the route, the most opulent mode of transportation would have to be Inca Rail's Private Car, which can be chartered for groups of eight. During the roughly 90-minute journey, guests can relax in their private lounge, dine on a three-course meal, sip Champagne and pisco sours, and take in views of the mountains and rivers from an open-air balcony.

### JOURNEY BEYOND'S THE GHAN



Perhaps the most legendary of Australia's luxury train journeys, the Ghan takes passengers on a 1,850-mile, 54-hour trek through the country's harsh, but beautiful Red Centre, connecting Darwin, Alice Springs, and Adelaide. Of course, the train journey itself is easy for passengers, who enjoy fine dining, luxurious cabins, and excursions into the Outback during the train's stops.

### BELMOND ROYAL SCOTSMAN



The Edwardian-style Belmond Royal Scotsman takes guests on two- to seven-day trips around Scotland, stopping for excursions to castles, tastings at distilleries, and even seal-watching boat tours. Guests are treated to gourmet meals three times a day, butler service, and live entertainment—and there's even an entire car that's been transformed into a spa on wheels.

### MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS



As its name implies, the Maharajas' Express, treats its guests as if they were royalty—and they'll certainly feel like royalty with butler service in their resplendent suites. The train journey runs four routes, each of which includes stops throughout the Golden Triangle, that take either four or seven days to complete. Excursions to sites like the Taj Mahal are included for every guest.

JOURNEY BEYOND'S GREAT SOUTHERN



The newest luxury train journey to debut in Australia, running for the first time in December 2019, the Great Southern connects Adelaide and Brisbane on three- and four-day itineraries. Guests are not only treated to sophisticated accommodations with fine dining, but they also can take excursions to different destinations along the route, from the wineries of the Hunter Valley to cultural hub Melbourne.

SEVEN STARS IN KYUSHU CRUISE TRAIN



Japan might be best known for its high-speed bullet trains, but the country excels at slow train journeys, too. The designer of the luxurious Seven Stars in Kyushu, which the Kyushu Railway Company launched in 2013, took inspiration from the legendary Orient Express, but combined its Western-style decor with Japanese elements, like elaborate kumiko woodwork and handcrafted ceramics by the Kakiemon and Seiroku kilns. The train journey offers two- and four-day itineraries around its namesake island, Kyushu.

BELMOND VENICE-SIMPLON ORIENT EXPRESS



One of the most iconic train journeys in the world, the Orient Express has gone through quite an evolution since it was inaugurated in 1883. The original route connected Paris and Istanbul (then Constantinople) via Munich, Vienna, and Giurgiu, Romania. After World War I, the Orient Express added two new routes to its map: one travelling through Italy, with another travelling through Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, and Serbia (then Yugoslavia). Today, the luxurious train journey is operated by Belmond, which has restored vintage sleeper cars for the journey, and runs between Venice and London over the course of 24 hours.

TRAIN SUITE SHIKI-SHIMA



While the rest of the trains on this list nod to the 20th-century Golden Age of rail travel, Train Suite Shiki-Shima, operated by East Japan Railway (JR East), goes with a thoroughly contemporary design, with a striking angular façade, observation cars that look as if they belong on a space station, and a minimalist wood-paneled dining car. It runs two- to four-day itineraries through Eastern Japan.

ROVOS' PRIDE OF AFRICA



South African railway company Rovos operates the Pride of Africa, a 1920s-inspired passenger train, on a network of itineraries spread across South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Angola. The train journeys combine scenic rail routes with adventures off the trains, from safaris to wine tastings. A little bonus: The train only reaches 37 miles per hour, so guests can open the windows to take in the landscapes and the breeze.

TRANSCANTÁBRICO GRAN LUJO



Spend eight days travelling between San Sebastián and Santiago de Compostela aboard the elegant 1920s-style Transcantabrico Gran Lujo, a Renfe train that leisurely meanders from a medieval town to medieval town throughout Green Spain, the country's northern coast. Highlights include a visit to the Guggenheim Bilbao and the Cave of Altamira, home to 36,000-year-old cave paintings.

Source: Galerie Magazine

# LUXURIOUS LIFESTYLE

## THE MOST EXCLUSIVE AND UNIQUE PRODUCTS YOU MUST HAVE

WRITTEN BY JESSICA ASHLEY MERKLEY

If you look for the unique, the exclusive and the finest, this article is for you. You must create new environments suitable for your luxury lifestyle.

Have you ever thought about driving expensive cars, using luxury watches and having luxury products by high-end brands? There are some unique pieces that you should have to increase and show your luxury lifestyle according to your personal tastes and choices.

A luxury lifestyle is about having your personal touch in your pieces but is also about the great value that you add to your life. As you know, luxury products and pieces are more valuable than all the others. So, we choose 30 luxury pieces and luxury experiences: safes, best yachts, wine and spirits, luxury pieces of jewelry and watches by famous watch brands.

## LUXURY WATCHES

Discover the luxury of watches of some famous watch brands that will impress you and can improve a luxury lifestyle.



Bulgari Diva Finissima Minute Repeater



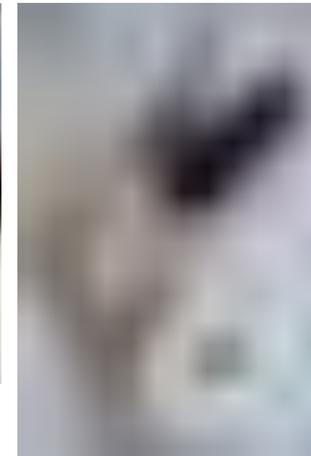
Glashütte Original Sixties



Slim d'Hermès Savana Dance by Hermès



Friend Calibre 3 by Chanel



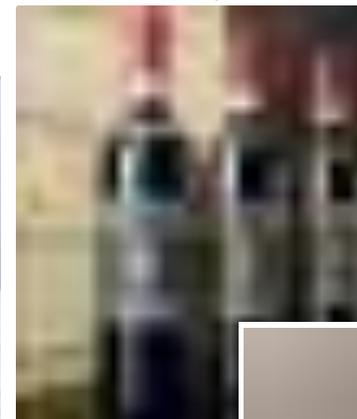
Ronde Louis Cartier Watch by Cartier

## WINE & SPIRITS

An expensive wine and a unique spirit make the difference. They are symbols of class, luxury, and exclusivity.

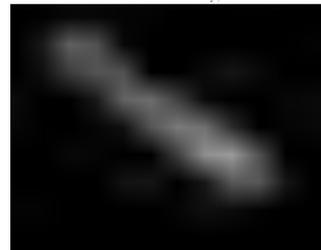


Nolet's Reserve Gin Modern



Biondi Santi Tenuta Greppo Riserva, Brunello di Montalcino - Tuscany

Penfolds 50-Year-Old Rare Tawny, South Australia



W & J Graham's Ne Oublie Port, Portugal



Wjion Champagne

# LUXURY YACHTS

We are going to show the most expensive yachts in the world so you can get inspired and think of pass a luxury vacations at one of these luxury yachts or just buy one like that.

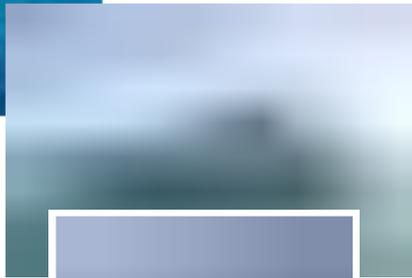
The Lady Moura Yacht



The Motor Yacht A



The Schamia Yacht

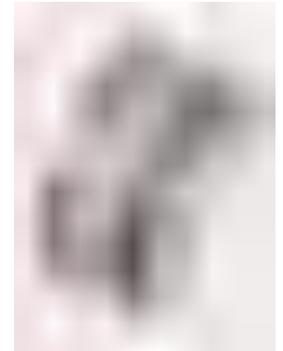


The History Supreme Yacht

The Al Mirqab Yacht



The Chanel Earrings by Chanel



Bulgari Cocktail Ring by Bulgari



The Tiffany Earrings by Tiffany & Co.

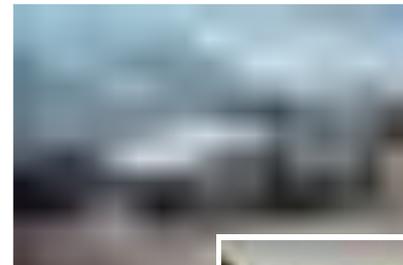
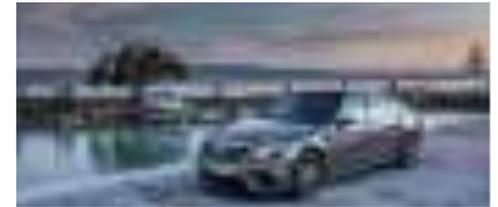


The Cartier Love Bracelet by Cartier

# LUXURY EXPENSIVE CARS

Most of us have the dream of having a luxury car, not any car but "the car". Here are some exclusive and amazing cars that can highlight your luxury lifestyle.

Mercedes-Benz S-Class



Maserati Quattroporte



BMW 7 Series

Jaguar XJ

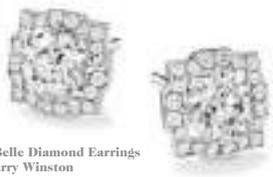


Tesla Model S



# EXCLUSIVE PIECES OF LUXURY JEWELRY

The most luxury pieces of jewelry compliment the beauty. Discover five precious pieces that will catch the attention wherever you be.



The Belle Diamond Earrings by Harry Winston

## LUXURY SAFES

Nowadays, there are occasions when one wants to protect certain items – luxury watches, jewelry, accessories, or perhaps documents or cash. A luxury lifestyle needs a luxury safes for any occasion to protect all your values and luxury pieces.

Bohème Luxury Safe by Boca do Lobo



GrandCircle by Doettling



Millionaire Luxury Safe by Boca do Lobo



The Bel-Air by Doettling



Illusion by Buben & Zorweg

Title: Nurturing  
 Sir Daniel Winn  
 71" h x 50" w  
 (180cm h x 103cm w)  
 Oil on Canvas

NURTURING

  
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 Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
 9532 S. Santa Monica Blvd.  
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 Promotional Consideration by  
 Dulcher Crossing Winery

# THE MACALLAN

## THE PINNACLE OF PRESTIGE

WRITTEN BY GERALD GLAVOTA

**T**he question of adding water to your whisky kicks up a storm of opinions. Ultimately, it comes down to your personal preference. While some enjoy the spirit over ice, or 'opened' with a drop of water, others accept nothing but a dram served neat. Regardless of which school of thought you deem correct, experts often say that the only wrong way to enjoy whisky, is to simply not enjoy it at all.

The Macallan is one of the most iconic Scotch whisky brands in the industry, known for its innovation, revered quality and collectability. Achieving perfection has been the brand's hallmark since it was founded in 1824. Many believe the brand's reputation is grounded in its meticulously chosen oak casks, a process for which The Macallan is renowned.



For every expression of The Macallan, the characteristic of the whisky is largely dependent on the type of oak casks in which they are matured. With up to 80% of The Macallan's final character, colour and flavour determined by cask quality, the barrels are the most prominent factor in ensuring and delivering the distinctive styles and ranges that are The Macallan.

The inspirations behind The Macallan's newest additions to its portfolio are both water and the oak cask: The Macallan Edition No. 6, The Macallan Double Cask 15 Years Old and The Macallan Double Cask 18 Years Old.



The Macallan Edition No. 6 is inspired by the natural wonders of The Macallan estate, and the vibrant life force that sustains it – The River Spey. Crafted from a combination of American and European sherry-seasoned oak casks, Edition No. 6 is a multifaceted whisky. It delivers aromas of fresh fruits, nutmeg and toffee, merged with oak and flavours of ripe plum, vibrant sweet oranges and cinnamon. The finish develops into spicy fresh fruits, creamy chocolate and toasted oats. Bottled at an ABV of 48.6%, The Macallan Edition No. 6 is the perfect conclusion to the brand's iconic Edition Series.

First introduced in 2016, The Macallan's Double Cask portfolio embodies the story of two worlds joining as one. The 'double' in Double Cask refers to the two different oaks that are used in the maturation of the spirit. The European oak is sourced from the green forests of northern Spain and the French Pyrenees, while its new oak hails from Ohio, Missouri and Kentucky. Both variations of wood are transported to Jerez, Spain, where the oak is handcrafted into casks that are then filled with sherry. The sherry seasoning of American oak imparts delicate flavours of vanilla, while the European oak delivers subtle spice. The Macallan Double Cask 12 Years Old, a hallmark expression of the Scotch whisky house, is the result of a harmonious union of these two oaks, and has become a favourite of Canadian Scotch aficionados.

The Double Cask series is now set to expand, with the upcoming releases of The Macallan Double Cask 15 Years Old and The Macallan Double Cask 18 Years Old.

The Macallan Double Cask 15 Years Old is a perfectly balanced spirit bottled at an ABV of 43%, with an aroma of dried fruits, toffee, baked apple and chocolate. On the palate, sweet raisin and sultana builds with hints of vanilla, wood spice and citrus, with a finish of warm ginger and a creamy mouth feel. This is one exceptional Scotch.

The Macallan Double Cask 18 Years Old delivers an aroma of dried fruits, ginger and toffee, with rich orange and hints of clove. On the palate, raisin and sultana come through, with notes of caramel, vanilla and ginger. The whisky boasts a warm, spicy finish, with notes of ginger and sweet orange. Bottled at an ABV of 43%, with a sweeter, warmer taste and character, this single malt will impress the most discerning of whisky enthusiasts.

These new expressions have significantly enhanced the existing Double Cask range, which lies at the heart of The Macallan's portfolio. The new Double Cask expressions demonstrate The Macallan's enduring desire to go beyond the ordinary, seek out the extraordinary, and create peerless single malts.



Photo: Brilynn Ferguson



## HIGHLAND PARK THE SINGLE MALT FROM ORKNEY

In the waters of northern Scotland, there are the Orkney Islands, home of the Highland Park distillery. This is a place where the winds are so fierce that there are essentially no trees. The barren, yet beautiful, landscape creates a woodless peat rich in fragrant heather, a unique ingredient that lives at the heart of the Highland Park identity.

In keeping with the distillery's commitment to tradition, the peat is hand cut, the barley malt is hand turned, the oak casks are sherry seasoned, the weather is cool and whisky harmonization is a necessity. These are the five keystones that define Highland Park, its quest for balance, and desire for harmony. This year, Highland Park continues to build on its award-winning portfolio by releasing a cask strength expression, Highland Park Cask Strength Release No. 1, which is set to hit shelves in Canada this month.

Cask strength whisky is highly coveted amongst whisky collectors, and for good reason. While most whiskies are diluted with water prior to bottling, to reduce the alcohol-by-volume (ABV) ratio, cask strength liquids are drawn directly from the cask and remain unadulterated. Furthermore, cask strength is very costly to create, as there is no ability to 'stretch' the liquid with water, which results in fewer bottles being filled per barrel, when compared to water-cut spirits.

Bottled at an ABV of 63.3% with an aroma described as heather honey and freshly grated nutmeg, this extraordinary single malt boasts notes of molten toffee and citrus fruit on the palate, with a finish of lingering peat smoke. Every drop in this bottle exudes Highland Park in its purest form. There is nothing in this whisky other than the whisky itself - nothing but the intensely balanced, award-winning spirit of the Orkney Islands.

# HIGH FASHION MEETS LUXURY HOSPITALITY WITH THESE MODERN HOTELS

WRITTEN BY JESSICA ASHLEY MERKLEY

**M**any parallels can be made between a luxury interior design of a modern hotel and the haute couture runways of high fashion's biggest names. In this case, however, they're intrinsically linked, as this selection of luxury hotels is owned by some of the world's most renowned fashion designers!

**DISCOVER OUR PICKS FOR LUXURIOUS AND MODERN HOTELS THAT ARE OWNED BY HAUTE COUTURE ROYALTY!**

## Bulgari Resort & Residences | Dubai | UAE



Dubai is home to a few different options regarding designer accommodations, however, the 1.4-million-square-foot Bulgari Hotel, which debuted May last year in Dubai, is wholly unique. Designed by Italian firm Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel, the modern hotel — constructed to resemble a jewel — is decked out in hand-selected marble and granite from Italy and Mongolia, iconic Bulgari photographs, and a custom-designed “Maglia Pantheon” mesh pattern on the floors, evoking the architectural traditions of Baroque Rome. The modern hotel is home to 101 hotel rooms, 20 hotel villas, a beach club, and the first Bulgari-branded marina and yacht club.



## Fendi Private Suites | Rome | Italy

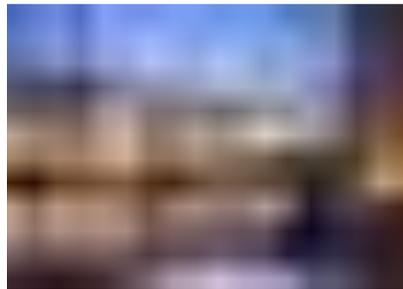


Like Armani, Missoni, Bulgari, and Moschino, Fendi became yet another Italian fashion brand to dabble in the world of hospitality when it opened Fendi Private Suites in the Eternal City in 2016. Part of the brand's larger Palazzo Fendi on Rome's Via Condotti, the outpost makes its home in a 17th-century manse that was once the brand's headquarters. True to its name, this modern hotel features just seven luxurious chambers, outfitted with fluffy Fendi towels and toiletries from Diptyque. There's even a “Menu Guanciali,” for guests to select a pillow just to their liking.

### Hotel Lungarno | Florence | Italy



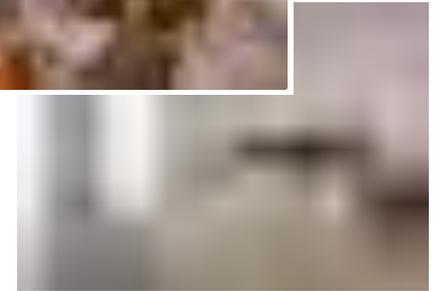
Owned by the Ferragamo family, Florence's grande dame was the first "fashion hotel," when it opened in 1995. The modern hotel sits on the banks of Florence's Arno River. In addition to 64 Michele Bonan-designed guest rooms, Hotel Lungarno is also home to the Michelin-starred Borgo San Jacopo restaurant and one of the most extensive collections of privately owned 20th-century art, including more than 450 pieces from Picasso, Cocteau, Bueno, and more.



### Tcherassi Hotel and Spa | Cartagena | Colombia



Colombian-born designer Silvia Tcherassi restored a 250-year-old Cartagena mansion to house her unique guesthouse. Architecturally conceived by Álvaro Barrera and Richard Mishaan, Tcherassi's first hotel project has just seven rooms, all named after fabric used in her airy, Caribbean-infused fashion collections.

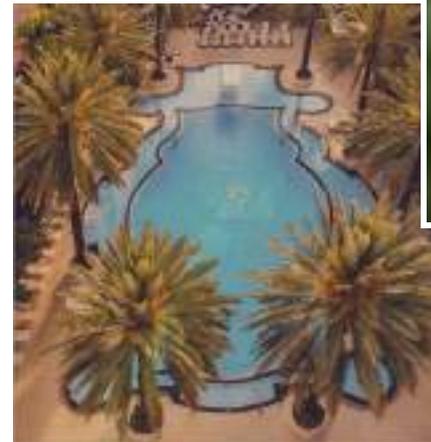


### Hôtel Petit Moulin | Paris | France



Christian Lacroix has designed three Parisian hotel interiors, but perhaps the most charming is Hotel du Petit Moulin, a secret residence housed in what was once the city's first bakery. Lacroix likens the Le Marais hotel to a dollhouse, with its preserved 17th-century facade and unique rooms, dressed with the flamboyant colours and styling that Lacroix is known for.

### The Raleigh | Miami | Florida



Miami's historic Raleigh was purchased by Tommy Hilfiger back in 2014. The American clothing mogul plans to transform the South Beach stalwart into a private boutique hotel, offering exclusive benefits to guests who pay an annual fee. When it reopens, the modern hotel will have just 88 rooms, down from 105. However, the designer guarantees that you won't see a direct reflection of the fashion brand on this luxury hotel.

# CAKE, MEMORIES AND FINE SPIRITS

WRITTEN BY GERALD GLAVOTA



Appreciating fine spirits is an awakening of the senses, taking you back to joyful memories. Memories that include family members, sights, sounds, smells that warm you and make you smile. For Dr Bill Lumsden, Director of Whisky Creation, the memories of the pineapple upside down cake his daughter made for his birthday together with the memories of baking with his grandmother brought great memories and joy.

The limited release of The Glenmorangie *Tale of Cake* (coming soon) whisky is the result of Dr Bill bringing these joyful memories into a spirit. He took the Glenmorangie Original (matured ten years in ex-Bourbon casks) and finished it in Hungarian Tokaji dessert wine casks. This is a delicious and complex whisky described as “rich and multi-layered, with a burst of passion fruit, pear, mango. More savoury notes like baking bread, gentle sappy oak and a curious, flinty minerality emerge... honeycomb, vanilla and almond, with a hint of milk chocolate. The mouthfeel is surprisingly luscious and tart at the same time, leading into a burst of sweet, cake-like-honey, white chocolate, apricot, almond, vanilla and pear... balanced by a hint of tangy orange and menthol, both classic... The lingering aftertaste again reminds you of a delicious combination of honeycomb, chocolate almond and pecan nuts.”

In addition to the whisky, Dr Bill worked with Dominique Ansel, the pastry chef hailed as the “Willy Wonka of New York.” He created a series of indulgent cake and cocktail pairings – ‘CakeTails’ – which showcase their unique flavours (see below) with an extra slice of fun.

When talking to Dominique about baking, he compared it to cooking, where it can take a few hours to cook but baking can take a few days or even longer. Whisky follows along the line of baking, taking a long time. Dr Bill and Brendan McCarron (head of maturing whisky stocks) have many experiments on the go and I can’t wait to see what’s next. Look for the release of The Glenmorangie *Tale of Cake* coming soon.

## THE CAKE OLD FASHIONED (TRY AT HOME):

- 50 ml Glenmorangie A Tale of Cake
- 7.5 ml coconut water
- 7.5 ml pineapple syrup
- 1 dash Psychaud’s bitters
- 1 pinch black pepper

Method: Stir all ingredients with ice and strain into a rocks glass over block/ cubed ice. Garnish with a twist of orange zest and a walnut.



Dr Bill is also busy with the Ardbeg Distillery, which has introduced a new addition to their whisky lineup called the Wee Beastie. It is a five-year-old bottle at 47.4% and does not disappoint. On the nose: herbal, vanilla, pear, rich coffee, black pepper, pine, and smoked ham. On the palate: chocolate, eucalyptus, smoke, and savoury meat. Time for another sip! Look for it soon at the LCBO.

The family run Diplomatico’s distillery lies at the foot of the Andes Mountains in Venezuela, where the distillery houses three different distillation processes. It uses up to ten varieties of sugar cane; its light rums are made from molasses and require a short fermentation, around a day, and the more complex are made from sugar cane honey and take two days to ferment.

*Diplomatico Reserva Exclusiva* (LCBO \$59.40) is a blend of exclusive rum reserves aged for up to twelve years. The nose is fruit cake, raisin, cocoa, vanilla, gingerbread; palate is chocolate down the center with the sweet fruitiness breaking out, with some oak. Nice and warming. Others available in the range are the *Distillery Collection: No 1 Batch Kettle* (LCBO \$90.20) and *No 2 Barbet* (LCBO \$89.95)

**Ontario Made** is a special designation in a bid to promote the many world class goods that are made across the province by helping consumers easily identify, access and purchase local goods. Forty Creek whiskies have been accredited by the Ontario Made program, including the *Forager Botanical Whisky* (LCBO \$34.95) and the *Forty Creek Double Barrel Reserve* (LCBO \$39.95):

*The Forager Botanical Whisky* is aged initially for three to four years and then “select botanicals are steeped in the liquid.” The nose is of pine, vanilla, nutty; the palate is vanilla, grain and fresh pine. *The Forager* is being recommended in its marketing as a full-flavoured gin substitute.

*Forty Creek Double Barrel Reserve* - The individual rye, barley, and corn whiskies are extra-aged in a variety of barrels before being blended and then a secondary aging (up to two years) in once-used Bourbon barrels. The nose has vanilla, caramel and a floral spice note; palate that has caramel, vanilla and rich spice that mellows into the finish.



## MADE IN ITALY: THE ART OF

“

# SAPER FARE ITALIANO

”

WRITTEN BY GIOVANNA BONOMO-BLESCIA  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR, ITALY

**RESILIENCY, CREATIVITY, AGILITY COMBINED WITH EXPERTISE, AN EYE FOR DESIGN, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND DETERMINISM ALL MAKE UP THE DNA BEHIND VIC MATIÉ AND RUBBER SOUL —THE FAMED MADE IN ITALY BRANDS FROM LE MARCHE, THE SHOEMAKING HEARTLAND OF ITALY.**

**M**ade in Italy: Three words that evoke pictures of style, beauty, creativity, quality, and timeless sophistication. In fact, according to a recent KPMG study, if “Made in Italy” were a brand, it would be the third biggest brand in the world after Coca-Cola and Visa. But what’s behind the “Made in Italy” label?

This Italian shoemaking story begins almost half a century ago when a visionary leader asked himself the right question at a critical time: “What is the future of Made in Italy shoes?” At the time, Renato Curzi was the President and Chief Executive Officer of a safety shoe manufacturing company. The safety shoe industry had become saturated, and the future looked bleak. His question elicited two outcomes: switch to mass overseas-production or create quality Made in Italy brands.



Renato Curzi, Founder VIC MATIÉ & RBRSL

But creating a “Made in Italy” brand wouldn’t happen overnight...or even in a matter of months. It would require years of strategy, innovation, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

In 1992, just before the tunnel was finished, stakeholder trust started to wane, and it was then that the visionary had to do the unthinkable—step down or acquire the company. He chose the latter, making this the first management buyout operation in Italian shoe history. “I didn’t acquire the company to become rich and famous,” Curzi explains. “I bought the company to bring my vision to fruition—to create beautiful, high-quality shoes made in Italy that stand the test of time by industrial design.”

### WHAT’S THE MADE IN ITALY SECRET?

“VIC MATIÉ, and more recently RBRSL are children born of our history and our culture; offspring of craftsmanship, we all started this way,” says Curzi. “The passion for creating, constructing, designing shoes and revolutionizing the world with our unique saper fare italiano, or Italian know-how.

But the founder’s definition of “Saper Fare Italiano” runs deeper than know-how or technical skill. With unshakeable conviction, Curzi explains: “Saper Fare Italiano” is that special quality that even without seeing the Made in Italy label, consumers know that it could have only been made in Italy — “Saper Fare Italiano,” is everything I see, everything I touch and everything that I wear that radiates style and quality.”

### ONE FAMILY, ONE VISION

Curzi’s entrepreneurial venture continued with his visionary wife Nenella Impiglia, co-founder, author, journalist, celebrated television personality, and two daughters Silvia and Valentina.

The magnetic co-founder smiles as she reflects on the early years of the nascent VIC MATIÉ. “My husband’s vision surpassed that of the stakeholders,” Impiglia said. “The time had come for the brand to be born, and together, with our mind, heart and creativity, we did it. We may differ in many ways, but we have always been united in big decisions. This has always been our greatest strength.”

For this Marche-based company, protecting Italian manufacturing and their workforce is as important as quality and design — “The people, the passion, the creativity and the country all make up the value of our product line,” says Impiglia. “Ethics and labour rights are at the core of our brand. Most of our employees have been with us since the 80s because of how they are treated; they infuse passion into their craft because they are treated with dignity, fairness, equality and respect.”

### HOW DOES THE FUTURE OF LUXURY FASHION LOOK?

“I believe we are about to enter a renaissance, but first we must change, Europe must change, the world must change. The time has come to demystify the bias of the mythic elderly artisans as the gatekeepers of knowledge. Today’s youth will pass on our Made in Italy traditions while doing a faster, more innovative and more sustainable job at it.”

— Renato Curzi, Founder VIC MATIÉ & RBRSL



VIC MATIÉ Man

As worldwide consumers grow increasingly reliant on online shopping, e-commerce represents a strategic change to serve customers worldwide without abandoning retail stores. With a strong resolve to create new, wider, and smoother roads ahead, Renato Curzi is looking to the future even in the pandemic. “I don’t live in the past; I live for the future — evolution requires us to be more responsible, more agile and surely more open to change—because we believe every step that allows us to move beyond our limits is a step towards the future!” A proponent of digital innovation, Curzi sees the merging of online and offline shopping experiences. “Everything is digital. Online and offline will not compete. They will be one. The key is uniting the two.”



**ISN'T DESIGNING FOR LONGEVITY BAD FOR BUSINESS?**

Designing for longevity presents one of the single largest opportunities to reduce the carbon and waste footprints of fashion manufacturing. But in this era of fast fashion, where many retail and manufacturing business models are based on throw-away, low-cost purchases, increasing longevity may seem counter-intuitive. The Brand Manager explains the company's winning sustainability model: “Quite simply, by upcycling waste, and creating brands that have a longer usable life both in durability and aesthetic, our shoes and accessories travel longer and wider, and are replaced less frequently, ultimately reducing the volume discarded and bringing by far the greatest benefits to brands, manufacturers, retailers, consumers and the planet.”

**“BRINGING MORE BEAUTY TO MORE PEOPLE THROUGH ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, THAT IS OUR MISSION.”**

— SILVIA CURZI BRAND MANAGER & CREATIVE DIRECTOR, VIC MATIÉ



3 Generations: Co-Founder Nenella Impiglia with daughters Valentina Curzi (Left) Silva Curzi (Right) and granddaughter Stella Maris (Centre)

The company is in the same place as when it started almost fifty years ago—in Le Marche, Italy's shoemaking heartland. “We purposely chose to remain and manufacture here because we believe in “Made in Italy” and its excellence in the world,” said Silvia Curzi, Brand Manager of VIC MATIÉ. “At the same time, we believe in reaching the world with diversity—offering something new to the market — not fast fashion, not haute couture — but Italian shoes that are meant to be worn and enjoyed beyond one season.”

**FASHION MEETS UPCYCLING**

“Fashion pollutes, there's no getting around this; what we can do is look for ways to reduce the impact. Nothing wasted — I believe all of the discarded materials can be reinvented into something else. We can impact less in this way and prove shoes are more than fashion symbols.”

— VALENTINA CURZI, CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF RBRSL

**A DIMENSION WHERE WASTE IS NOT WASTED AND SHOE BECOMES ARTIST.**

The Millennial Creative Director believes in the art of “upcycling” the art of repurposing materials and transforming them into brand new pieces— in RBRSL's case, rubber that would otherwise be burned or discarded is being transformed into art installations. During Milan Fashion Week, RBRSL, with its atmosphere of innovation, characteristic design and creativity, debuted its 2021 collection and its upcycled art projects: Lamp and Painting.

‘Lamp’ a lamp made entirely of rubber waste, and ‘Painting’ a series of canvases derived from “dripping,” the process of excess rubber dripping from the shoe during the drying process. In both projects, rubber waste that would have negatively impacted the planet has surpassed its limits—no longer a substance, but an artist.

“All I do is insert the Plexiglas,” says Curzi. “We’ve entered a whole new dimension, where it is no longer human creating art, but the shoe. There is a world behind a shoe— No one and nothing is wasted. Anything that has exhausted its original function can make a comeback with brand new functionality. This is the philosophy behind our upcycling art, and this is what I want to emerge from RBRSL.”



Milan Fashion Week: RBRSL Debuted their SS\_2021 collection along with ‘Lamp’ and ‘Painting’ collection at the luxury store Daad Dantone in Milan, Via della Spiga 25.



**CONCLUSION**

So, what's really behind the “Made in Italy” label?

Made in Italy is more than a label; it is more than a brand; it is even more than craftsmanship mixed with technology and innovation —these are the fruits. The root of Made in Italy is the land and its people—Entrepreneurial and dedicated Italians who for generations have resisted, sacrificed, persevered, stayed, passed down and infused their DNA into their craft— never quitting, and always evolving. All of these factors combined goes into “Saper fare Italiano” and what it means to be Made in Italy.



# ITALY'S PLANS TO BRING TOURISM BACK TO THE SOUTH

WRITTEN BY TERESA GRECO

Italy's most enticing tourism revival plan includes 50 million euros, financed by the region's tourism department, to bring tourists back to Sicily. Known to provide an unforgettable holiday through wine tasting tours, world's unique artistic masterpieces, three active volcanoes, snow-capped mountains and an amazing sea, Sicily is considered the European holiday paradise. Eager to welcome visitors post-pandemic, Italy's plans include offering a 50% discount on all flight costs, 25% off hotel expenses, and free tickets to many museums and archaeological sites in regions like Sicily. Europe normally continues to draw many North American tourists who enjoy travelling overseas during the winter months, particularly for the numerous Christmas markets; however, with the governments' re-imposed curfews and travel restrictions, hotels, bars, and restaurants sit empty in most affected areas.

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, Europe's tourism sector employs 22.6 million people, which is equivalent to 11.2% of total European Union employment. The European Commission has estimated the loss of up to 50 million jobs worldwide within the global hospitality and tourism industry, seven million of which is expected to be from Europe alone. The estimated loss of tourism revenue worldwide is between 275-400 billion euros, said Sonia Gospodinova, an EU Commission spokesperson. "For Europe restaurants and hotels would lose 50% of their revenues. The most impacted are the airlines and cruise operators (90%) and 70% of loss for tour operations and other travel agencies," says Gospodinova. In Italy's southern region, Sicily has taken an almost irrecoverable hit, losing over \$1.09 billion USD in revenue since the country imposed a nationwide lockdown on March 10th due to the Covid-19 pandemic.





Tourist traffic is down 20-30% in 2020, according to the World Tourism Organization. To incentivize tourists to pick Sicily as a vacation destination, Manlio Messina, Sicily's tourism director, announced that "there will be 400,000 vouchers for discounts and giveaways to encourage holiday-makers who despite coronavirus fears, decide to go to the island." The vouchers, reports InformaSicilia, will be "paid in advance for tourist packages that include rooms booked in the hotel, guided tours and tickets for theaters or shows in Sicily."

“

**IT IS CRUCIAL NOW TO AID AND ASSIST TOURISM ENTERPRISES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TRAVEL ECOSYSTEM TO SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVELIHOODS THAT DEPEND ON THE SECTOR,**

”

— states Luis Araujo,  
President of the European Travel Commission.

Araujo says the resumption of tourism will trigger economic growth and revival in the 33 European countries he now oversees in his new position. "We need to ensure that tourism has a stronger voice in Europe, through better coordination among countries, in view of a... responsible, sustainable, digital and resilient tourism of tomorrow." Araujo remains optimistic, saying, "We have a real opportunity now to reinvent the tourism sector of tomorrow."



International Film Star, Maria Grazia Cucinotta

# EXCLUSIVE Q&A WITH ITALIAN ICON

**MARIA GRAZIA  
CUCINOTTA**

WRITTEN BY GIOVANNA BONOMO-BLESCIA  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR, ITALY

Meet Maria Grazia Cucinotta, the Italian actress, producer, and author who has captivated hearts worldwide ever since her breakthrough role in the Academy Award-winning film, “Il Postino,” more than three decades ago. In this exclusive interview, Maria Grazia takes us on a journey to her beloved Sicily and talks about the importance of taking risks, Hollywood, and marriage

## YOU SAY, “THOSE WHO TRY, NEVER FAIL” — DOES THIS TRUISM COME FROM PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCE?

If I hadn’t left Sicily to participate in the Miss Italia pageant when I was a teen, I might have never left the island. I came from a hardworking family where no one knew anything about the world of entertainment, including me. But something inside of me told me I could do it, and I did. I made it to the finals, and my career took off from there. I didn’t study acting; I learned by doing. If you stay in the same place complaining saying, “I’ll never do it,” you never will—that’s why I say, “Those who try never fail.” Failing is not about making mistakes. Failing is never trying—never risking.

## TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FASCINATION WITH “THE COINCIDENCE OF THINGS.”

My first job was on Renzo Arbore’s hit show “Indietro Tutta.” It was a stratospherically, successful television program. And what I noticed then that continues to amaze me even now is the coincidence of things. As soon as “Indietro Tutta” finished, I met Giorgio Capitani and his wife Simona, which led to my debut on the silver screen. Ever since, my life has been a series of coincidences — interconnected streets and paths that crossed day after day.

## WHAT WAS THE GREATEST FEAR YOU’VE HAD TO FACE IN YOUR CAREER?

Moving to Los Angeles at the height of my career in Italy without knowing one word of English and pushing the big red stop button on acting in Italy — that terrified me. But once again, there was something inside of me that said I needed to stay there. Being in Los Angeles for ten years rewarded me with cinema know-how and inner confidence that I wouldn’t have experienced had I shied away from fear.

## “THAT “SOMETHING INSIDE OF YOU” WHAT IS IT?

It’s a sixth sense that Sicilians have - especially the women. I’ve always had it, but I haven’t always listened. But it’s part of the magic that comes from Sicily.

## FROM SICILY TO HOLLYWOOD—WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF AMERICA?

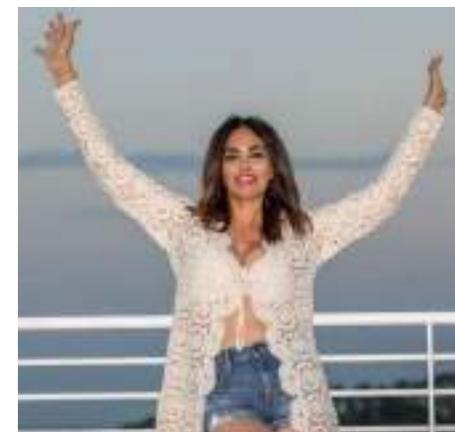
They recognize talent. If you have talent, you’ll go far. They don’t ask where you come from, who you are, or care about your background. The important thing is that the public loves you— because we work for the public. Even though my agency represented Charlize Theron, Kevin Costner, and Vin Diesel, my agents, who I’ll always be grateful for, treated me like a star — this gave me the inner confidence and strength that needed to work with Hollywood giants, such as Pierce Brosnan, in the James Bond film “007- The World Is Not Enough.”

## YOU SAY A FILM IS NEVER JUST A FILM— WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

Every film is a door to new talent and an opportunity to introduce and make people fall in love with our country and culture. Until now, a lack of strong international distribution has kept international audiences from accessing Italy’s films. I hope that the dawn of streaming platforms like Netflix and Prime will bring a revival of Italian films to the world.

## HOW WAS LIFE GROWING UP IN SICILY?

Life growing up was difficult, filled with many sacrifices. But I wouldn’t change any of it. It was the most beautiful childhood that I could’ve ever asked for because looking back. I know what it feels like to have nothing yet feel like a millionaire at the same time. Because all I had to do was go to the beach, pick chestnuts, or picnic in the woods with warm bread, tomatoes and olive oil, and I felt rich with zero.



Italian icon of style and beauty, Maria Grazia Cucinotta

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**YOUR EYES WELL-UP WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT SICILY. HOW HARD WAS IT FOR YOU TO LEAVE?**

The biggest sacrifice that I've ever had to make was leaving my mother, family and home in Sicily. When you leave your family, you leave that place that's secure, and you will never find that place anywhere else—even now that I have my own family and home in Rome. Still, when I think of home, I think of Sicily. I think of my mother. I think of that place, my childhood home.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THE SICILIANS WHO WERE FORCED TO EMIGRATE AFTER THE WAR?**

Thank you. Many Sicilian families owe much to you—the brothers, sisters, children of our island who emigrated to North America and other countries searching for work—leaving Italy wasn't easy for you. Still, you did it to help your families back home. Your help contributed to the well-being of our nation. The Italian excellence we bring to the world today is also because of your great sacrifice back then.

**TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT ITALY THAT YOU LOVE.**

Take Sicily, for example. You have Mount Etna, which is the biggest volcano in Europe. A smoking monster that's as scary as it is fascinating, yet you can ski on it—and from on top of the mountain, you can see people swimming in the sea! Sicily has everything that you could ever want sea, mountains, woods, food, magical islands. Every year I do a tour of the islands because they are dreamlike places where strangers open their doors to you and set a place for you at their table with a plate of spaghetti and tomato sauce. The pandemic brings us back to the basics and pushes us to re-discover the things that really matter, love, health and everything that Italy offers for free.

**HIDDEN JEWELS OF SICILY?**

Kolymethra Garden in the heart of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. It's a rare archaeological and agricultural jewel. It's like being inside the Garden of Eden with olive groves, orange and lemon trees from 2,500 years ago. I am so grateful to FAI for giving new life to these trees' origin and growing fruit that has never been manipulated—the way it was meant to be.

**YOU COULD HAVE LIVED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, BUT YOU CHOSE TO STAY IN ITALY, WHY?**

Because for me, Italy is the most beautiful country in the world. It's the country where the quality of life is marvellous; it offers gastronomic excellence and boasts more UNESCO World Heritage sites than any other country in the world. The problem is that we take for granted everything Italy has to offer. We want more without seeing what we have right in front of us.



October 2020, Giulio Violati and Maria Grazia Cucinotta 25th FIG Wedding Anniversary celebration and Wedding Ceremony at home in Rome

**YOU RECENTLY CELEBRATED 25 YEARS OF MARRIAGE WITH A WEDDING CEREMONY — WAS THIS A RENEWAL OF VOWS OR AN ACTUAL WEDDING?**

It was an actual wedding. The plan was to have a big ceremony and reception. But then the pandemic intervened, which is why we celebrated at home with only a few close relatives—my Mother joined us remotely from Sicily.

**WHY A MARRIAGE WITHIN A MARRIAGE?**

When Giulio and I met, we were both very young. Getting married was about the celebration. After the wedding, we woke up with this ring around our fingers without knowing the significance. Now, I feel that we really truly chose each other. We got married for real. We decided to continue to spend the rest of our lives together, knowing who he is and who I am.



Giulio Violati, daughter Giulia, Maria Grazia Cucinotta

**GIULIO VIOLATI IS ONE OF ITALY'S MOST PROMINENT ENTREPRENEURS, YET WHEN YOU GOOGLE HIM, WE FIND "HUSBAND OF MARIA GRAZIA CUCINOTTA, HOW DOES HE HANDLE THAT?"**

It used to get on his nerves, now he laughs and calls himself "Mr. Cucinotta." But his favourite title is "Father of Giulia." He is the real protagonist; he's the real star but doesn't compete for the spotlight.

**THE SECRET TO A STRONG MARRIAGE?**

Patience, freedom and trust. We are two different people with two different ways of thinking who disagree like any other couple but are connected by love. And love must prevail above all. Giulio has always supported my career and has always respected my need for freedom. He didn't even stop me from moving to Los Angeles. I could never be with anyone who would try to take that freedom away from me. Freedom is life.

**TOP THREE PROJECTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021?**

Live Theatre Show – "Figlie di Eva" directed by Massimiliano Vado.

Cinema – "Gli Anni Belli" directed by Lorenzo d'Amico de Carvalho

Short film - "Padri" the story of a child abducted by a satanic cult.



Maria Grazia Cucinotta with Director Lorenzo d'Amico de Carvalho on the set of "Gli Anni Belli"

# THE ULTIMATE LUXURY GIFTS FOR A CIGAR LOVER

WRITTEN BY TERESA GRECO

**A**re you searching for high-end and unique gifts for the cigar smoker on your holiday shopping list? Here are 5 of the best gifts for that someone who smokes and loves the luxury lifestyle. Discover more about these modern cigar accessories below.

Created by the artist Oliver Kaps, the DNA lighter may be the most personalized lighter in the world. The lighter gets its name from the fact that DNA is extracted from 10 grams of buyer's hair and then encapsulated in a certified and numbered ruby or sapphire stone. The same stone will also be used as a base for the lighter's lacquer. A precious varnish is applied for 15 days, 5 hours of burning a day, for a total of 36 coats of paint, which results in an incomparable shine. This luxury gift requires a 3-month production cycle and is available for purchase for 'only € 29,000.00.



**S.T. Dupont DNA Lighter**



**S.T. Dupont Hydro Lighter**

For that someone looking for a real conversation piece, the S.T. Dupont Hydro Lighter is designed of wood, glass, and gold-plated brass and boasts modern technology that enables it to electronically separate water into its two main components—oxygen and hydrogen. As oxygen starts to bubble up in the reservoir, hydrogen is expelled through a tube attached to a small dish and is instantly ignited by an electric arc from two electrodes. The hydrogen flame, ordinarily invisible to the human eye, will burn with a pale-yellow flame if a pinch of salt is added to the dish, thus allowing a cigar to be lit. Only eight individually numbered pieces were produced.



**Elie Bleu Diamond Medailles Noir Limited Edition Pocket Lighter**

This pocket Elie Bleu lighter is a real work of art while also very functional. Inspired by the Médaille d'Elie Bleu collection, it is designed using their Cigar Diamond Jet Burner System Technology and Piston Cap Operating system. Esthetically pleasing to the eye, the lighter is cast, and the deeply sculpted sides of the solid brass case are filled with resin, which is then polished to a jewel-like finish before the rest of the lighter is Rhodium-plated. This is truly a functional piece of contemporary art and is on our list of cigar smokers' best gifts.





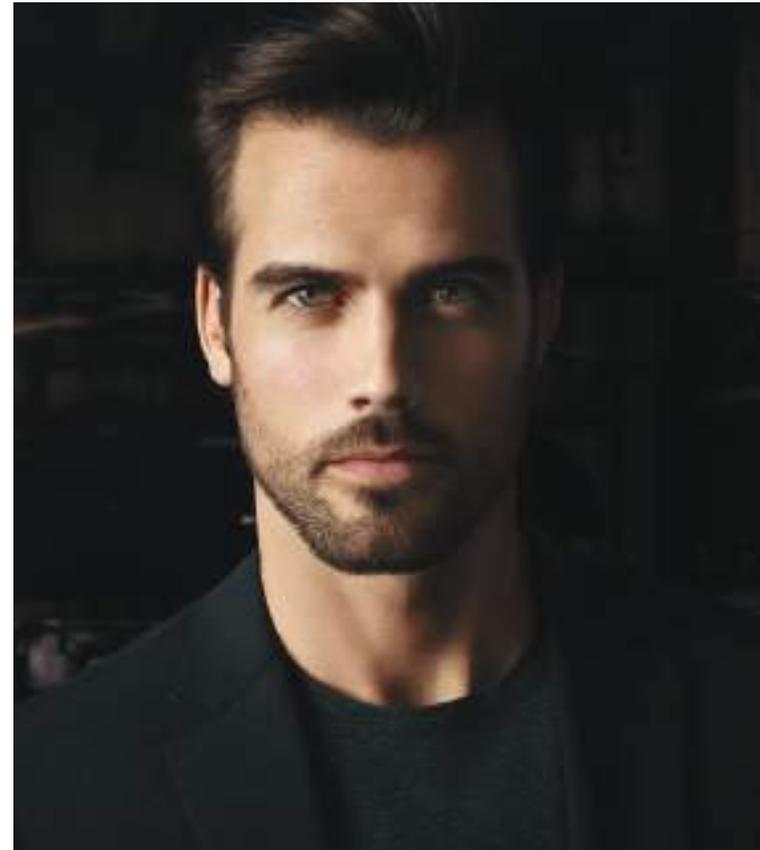
### Cohiba Spectre 2019

Uniquely striking, the Cohiba Spectre has a deeply fermented, five-year-old, ultra-dark Nicaraguan Jalapa wrapper that underwent an additional fermentation process for six months. Eight barrels of wrapper tobacco were set aside for the Cohiba Spectre. This craftsmanship masterpiece includes the blend of a Connecticut Broadleaf binder and fillers consisting of Brazilian Mata Fina and Nicaraguan tobaccos. Undergoing a unique finishing process in Spanish Sherry Cask barrels, the Nicaraguan tobaccos in the Cohiba Spectre are sure to please any discerning cigar aficionado. Only 180 red acrylic cases were produced, each housing ten individually boxed cigars in black-lacquered coffins.



### Colibri Quasar Table Lighter

The Quasar Table Lighter's metallic pyramid body highlights elegance alongside its sturdy functionality. With fast single-action retracting doors, the triple-flame lighter with ignition embedded in its signature Quasar design provides a steady flame capable of igniting even the biggest-ringed cigar. Alongside its sturdy functionality, the lighter will not only look luxurious while sitting on your coffee table or desk, but with its non-slip rubber foot pads, it won't scratch the surface either.



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# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE MONACO THIRD LIMITED-EDITION

WRITTEN BY TERESA GRECO

**T**he third of five limited-edition models of the Tag Heuer Monaco pays tribute to the themes, styles, and trends of the 1990s. In celebration of the popular model's 50th anniversary, the Swiss watchmaker released five special-edition tributes to the Monaco. Each of the five Monaco watches is inspired by the different decades from 1969 to 2019. When the Tag Heuer Monaco was first introduced on March 3, 1969, watch aficionados around the world had witnessed the very first square and waterproof chronograph in the world, thus changing the face of luxury Swiss watchmaking forever.



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The 1989-1999 Special Edition Monaco features a steely industrial appearance, characteristic of the straightforward street style of this decade. The blue and silvery appearance also has some touches of red, while the stainless-steel square chronograph has a grained rhodium-plated dial with sandblasted subdials featuring blue counters. The blue of the 'Monaco Heuer' logo (historically accurate rather than the modern TAG Heuer logo) at 12 o'clock, and the minute and second scales counters provide a contrast to the red touches on the hands and indexes and the red motif on the dial. The blue perforated calfskin strap with red stitching and a polished folding clasp in stainless steel continues this colour scheme.



Also present in this special edition is the four-sided 39-mm vintage-look steel case, the date window at 6 o'clock, and the unconventional placement that has distinguished the Monaco over the past 50 years -- the pushers on the right of the case while the crown is on the left. The case houses the Calibre 11, a modern version of the automatic-winding chronograph movement that made its debut inside the original Monaco in 1969. The caseback of this wristwatch is engraved with the "Monaco Heuer" logo as well as "1989-1999 Special Edition" and "One of 169."

The Monaco watch was introduced by Heuer in 1969 for the Monaco Grand Prix. A watch ahead of its time, the Heuer Monaco was a square watch in an ocean of round timepieces. "We wanted to create an outstanding and innovative product, something avant-garde. When I saw the square case, I immediately knew it was something special. Until then, square cases were only used for dress watches because it was not possible to make them water-resistant. We went forward with this unconventional design and negotiated the exclusive use of this revolutionary case for the Monaco wrist chronograph." – TAG Heuer Honorary Chairman Jack Heuer.

The brand, well recognised in the world of motorsport, entered the sphere of popular culture when Steve McQueen wore the watch in the 1971 feature film, *Le Mans*. When Steve McQueen was asked to choose a watch to wear in his role as a motor racing driver in the movie, he picked Heuer's Monaco 113 watch with the square case and a blue dial; and sales of the Monaco soared with new versions introduced throughout the early seventies.

Each of the 50th Anniversary Special Edition Monaco watches is limited to 169 pieces and retails for \$6,550 US.





SARAH ST. AMAND, DESIGNER

## TAILORED MENSWEAR MAKES AN APPEARANCE IN HOME DECOR

WRITTEN BY LISA VAN DE GEYN



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**W**omen know there's nothing quite like being well-dressed — when we walk into a room in the perfect blazer, a killer pair of stilettos and a fashion-forward handbag, we instantly feel like the epitome of style and the true definition of self-confidence. We have a wide selection of outfits that can express our tastes, moods and personalities, and women's wear is fawned over around the world. But women's clothing is so much more than our attire — it's universally known that our fashion has much to do with trends in interior design. For example, you've likely heard the adage "from runway to room." I can definitely say that this rings true to me as a designer. As someone who has been conceptualizing and crafting interiors for homeowners for more than 20 years, I'm confident that those of us who are in the business of keeping an eye on the trends know that what you see on the runway this season (think colours, patterns, textures and fabrics), you'll absolutely see in stunning adobes next season.

It's true that design and decor have typically taken on a more feminine feel for the last several decades — there's been an onslaught of design featuring various shades of pink, florals, French furniture and soft materials. That said, there's no doubt in my mind that men's style isn't just as powerful. It's not as obvious, but it's certainly true that the essence of flawlessly tailored menswear makes an appearance in home decor. While polished suiting in masculine hues and textures might not get the same attention as a little black dress or a perfectly fitted blazer, men's fashions can be just as impressive as women's — and in many cases, it can be even more influential than women's wear.



Let's start with palettes: Menswear tends to veer toward the darker shades of more sophisticated colours; there's a lot of navy, hunter green, charcoal grey, cognac and burgundy. In men's suiting, there's a reason you'll never see, say, a bright red suit — you won't find a red suit jacket or red slacks in a high-end men's clothier. Think of full suiting as furniture in a space. When I use charcoal or other dark masculine shades, I bring in colour and texture in the accessory pieces, much the same way men bring in colour in the dress shirts, ties and socks they wear with their suit. These pieces are the accent to the suit in the same way art, pillows and window coverings are the accent to a room. Consider patterns the same way. Herringbone, houndstooth, argyle, tweed, pinstripe and plaid are menswear-inspired patterns that add plenty of visual interest and depth when paired with the darker hues evocative of masculine design — I tend to use some of these patterns in rugs, pillows and other decorative pieces.



Next, when you think about masculine textures, it's truly all about natural materials such as wood, stone, leather, marble, wool and suede. Consider a pair of cognac-coloured leather club chairs — they're relaxed, they have that lounge-like feel and they're the epitome of masculinity. Now, add a clean-lined industrial-style brass bar cart with decanters and stainless-steel accessories, and you have quite the sexy vignette. Metals are also a good example of a material used in interior design that has more masculine notes. Brass, copper, aluminum, wrought iron and stainless steel are all hard materials that pair beautifully with softer surfaces. (They're also versatile in that they're available in different finishes, such as brushed and hammered, which can have a very masculine feel.) If you think of a men's suit, his leather belt contrasts with the textures of his suit fabric. The metal on his belt acts as an accent or embellishment. Now think of a room with a hunter green leather ottoman adorned with dramatic nail-head embellishments. In both the men's suit and the room, the two materials work perfectly together and create the ultimate striking, refined look.

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